

Agitator

VOL. 5.

GARNETT, KANSAS, JULY 5, 1894.

NO. 7.



Devoted to the interests of

THE MASSES.

A Fearless, Aggressive, Progressive Advocate of All Reforms.

POPULIST STATE TICKET.

For Associate Justice,
GEO. W. CLARK.
For Governor,
L. D. LEWELLING.
For Lieutenant Governor,
D. I. FURBECK.
For Secretary of State,
J. W. AMIS.
For Treasurer,
W. H. BIDDLE.
For Auditor of State,
VAN B. PRATHER.
For Sup't of Public Instruction,
H. N. GAINES.
For Attorney-General,
JOHN T. LITTLE.
For Congressman-at-Large,
W. A. HARRIS.

Is Government Ownership of Railroads Visionary?

In these days of trusts and consolidations, strikes and cut-downs between labor and railroads, it may be interesting to note what has been and what can be done to remedy these evils. We never hear of any strikes, cut-downs or labor troubles on the railroads of Australia—and why? Because the government owns and operates them in the interest of the people.

In Australia, you can ride a distance of 1,000 miles across the country for \$6.50—first class, too—while working-men can ride six miles for 2 cents, 12 miles for 4 cents, 30 miles for 10 cents, etc., and railroad men receive from 25 to 30 per cent. more wages for 8 hours work than they are paid in this country for 10 hours of toil.

In Victoria, where the above rates prevail, the net incomes from the roads last year was sufficient to pay all the federal taxes.

In Hungary, where the roads are state owned, you can ride six miles for 1 cent, and since the government bought the roads, wages have doubled. Belgium tells the same story—

fares and freights cut down one-half and wages doubled; yet, the roads pay a yearly revenue to the government of \$4,000,000.

In Germany, you can ride four miles for 1 cent on government-owned lines; yet, wages are 120 per cent. higher than when the private corporations owned them, and during the last ten years the net profits have increased 41 per cent. Last year, the roads paid the German government a net profit of \$25,000,000.

If our government owned the railroads, we would go from San Francisco to Boston for \$10. Look at the profit:

Uncle Sam pays the railroads not quite \$275 to transport a loaded postal car from Boston to San Francisco. A passenger-car will carry fifty passengers, which, at \$10 each, would be \$500, or a clear profit of \$225 a car—and this, too, after paying 5 1-2 per cent. on watered stock, which is fully 100 per cent. on the cost of the roads.

To show how our railroads have watered stock, I point to the New York Central & Hudson River railroad, which, when the Vanderbilts obtained control in '69, was capitalized at \$40,000,000. They at once watered it up to \$90,000,000. More watered stock has been added until the present capital stock is \$146,000,000—all but \$45,000,000 being watered stock.

Government ownership would save the people the gigantic sum of \$10,000,000,000 a year, and bring shorter hours and better pay to the 700,000 railroad employees.—The Morning American.

Every reading person should take advantage of the extraordinary offer made by the Farmers' Tribune—General Weaver's paper—the brightest, the newsiest and the best reform paper on the list. They only ask 25 cents for this large 48 column weekly from now until January 1, 1895. It is a bargain and we hope every one of our readers will take advantage of it at once. Tell your neighbors about it. Address

FARMERS' TRIBUNE,
Des Moines, Iowa.

No compromise! Stand firm!

Ahead of Kansas.

In the Kansas Populist convention an equal suffrage plank was adopted by a vote of 376 to 280.

In South Dakota, it went through by acclamation, less than a dozen feeble votes responding "No."

South Dakota Populists will keep in the van of reform.—Dakota Ruralist, Huron, S. D.

"A Republican Year."

The Republican state central committee of Virginia have decided to call no conventions for congressional nominations this year, which is a very prudent course to pursue—following the example of Alabama and Georgia.

Still, there are men who will call the Republican party a national party.—Dakota Ruralist.

Bread-winning Women.

The report of the last census, as nearly as can be ascertained, shows that, outside of domestic service, America had, in 1890, 2,700,000 bread-winning women and girls working outside their own homes. There were 110 lawyers, 165 ministers, 320 authors, 588 journalists, 2,061 artists, 2,136 architects, chemists, pharmacists, 2,106 stock raisers and ranchers, 5,135 government clerks, 2,438 physicians and surgeons, 13,182 professional musicians, 56,000 farmers and planters, 21,071 clerks and bookkeepers, 14,465 heads of commercial houses, 156,000 public school teachers—based on the census of 1890.

Here is an army of women depending upon themselves for support and probably taking care of themselves. Any talk of relegating these women to a life of dependence is mere foolishness. The question to consider is how best to adapt this new factor to existing conditions, or how to shape the conditions to the best interests of these wage-earners and the commonwealth.—Kansas City Times.

The news from Oregon has as last come in by freight and the counting is still going on. The Republicans have the election machinery, and if the count is not correct, it is their fault. The Portland Leader occupies columns in relating instances of frauds at the ballot-box, repeating

and stuffing and all manner of chicanery usually practiced by politicians of the old parties. It relates of one instance where the count shows more Republican votes cast than there were inhabitants, men women and children, in the precinct. The Republicans of Oregon followed the example set by Virginia Democrats last fall. Set the figures for the majority the day of election and then counted to them. Our boys are badly organized as they were in this state when Willets was counted out in 1891—Exchange.

Mrs. Clara B. Colby, editor and publisher of the Woman's Tribune, Washington, D. C., says in her paper, June 16th: "The Republican state convention in Kansas rejected the woman suffrage resolution, but the Populist convention finally adopted it on the morning of June 13. The committee on resolutions voted against it 13 to 8, but the 8 brought in a minority report, which was discussed for half a day, and then adopted by a vote of 349 to 268, amid the wildest excitement. The enthusiasm was greatly increased when Miss Anthony and Rev. Anna Shaw stepped to the front of the platform and assumed the Populist badge. The Tribune can assure the Populist party that by this act they have gained thousands of adherents all over the nation, and the editor will do her level best, in at least a month's campaigning, to win success for the amendment and the party that dared stand by its principles of equal rights to all and special privileges to none.

What You Don't Know About California

Is told in a beautifully illustrated and entertaining book entitled "To California and Back." Ask G. T. Nicholson, G. P. A., Topeka, Kas., for a copy. It is free.

The San Francisco Midwinter Exposition will attract tourists to the Pacific coast this winter. Write to above address for pamphlet describing the World's Fair, Jr. The unexcelled climate, cheap lands and sunshiny skies of all California are attractive every day in the year. Low rates via the Santa Fe route.

SEND us a dime and get a "Keep-Off-the-Grass" badge. It's a daisy.